

# *Jamestown Rediscovery*

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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## **Explore the Ed Shed at Jamestown: Archaeology for the Whole Family**

JAMESTOWN, Va. (May 12, 2023) –

Summer is almost here and that means more opportunities to explore archaeology at Jamestown. The Ed Shed, our family-friendly, hands-on educational space, will open for the season on Tuesday, May 23. Budding archaeologists of all ages can experience the moment of discovery and investigate artifacts found during excavations, such as oyster shells and tiny bones that shed light on the diets of those who lived here. Visitors to the Ed Shed also have the opportunity to explore advanced geographic technology Jamestown archaeologists use to find and map features.

The artifacts at the Ed Shed are real pieces of Jamestown history, giving visitors the unique opportunity to see, touch, and feel our shared past. This year, most of the sorting material will come from James Fort's First Well, also called the John Smith well. Smith wrote that in late 1608 or early 1609, the settlers "dugged a faire Well of fresh water in the Fort of excellent, sweet water which till then was wanting." The well was likely abandoned and then filled in with trash during the post-Starving Time clean-up of the Fort in 1610, creating a time capsule of the early fort period. Artifacts excavated from this feature number in the hundreds of thousands. Visitors to the Ed Shed will help the curators and archaeologists identify tiny artifacts from these layers, which include European and Native American ceramic fragments, pipe stems, glass, small animal bones, and other materials.

Staff Archaeologist Natalie Reid created the curriculum plan for children's programming at the Ed Shed that incorporates the basics of archaeological research, scientific methods, and technology--all incorporated with the history of Jamestown. "At the Ed Shed, even Jamestown's youngest visitors can join the archaeology team and sort through real artifacts, all while supporting our research into life on Jamestown Island," said Natalie. The hands-on activities provide a richer learning experience for visitors of all ages.

The Ed Shed is generously supported by funding from the Donna J. and James C. Reagan Fund for Educational Programs and is open from 9:00-4:30 Tuesday through Saturday, through August 5.

Photos of the Ed Shed, with captions and crediting, [can be found here.](#)

About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

*The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. The Foundation is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown's diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit. JRF jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. Admission includes the James Fort site, New Town, and the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as walking tours, living history, and public programs. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org) or call (757) 856-1250.*